

## HIGHLIGHTS

Of the 30 national objectives addressed in this report, North Carolina met only five:

- o *Virtually all women who give birth should have appropriately attended, safe delivery, provided in ways acceptable to them and their families:* Since 1985, only 0.2 percent of North Carolina mothers have been attended at birth by an attendant other than a physician or a midwife. No data are available on the latter part of the objective.
- o *Virtually all newborns will be provided neonatal screening for metabolic disorders:* Since 1988, all children delivered in N.C.'s hospitals have been tested for metabolic disorders, and others are tested before a birth certificate is issued.
- o *At least 95 percent of children attending licensed day care facilities and kindergarten through 12th grade should be fully immunized:* In 1990, nearly 98 percent of all children admitted to kindergarten or first grade were fully immunized. North Carolina met this objective despite more stringent immunization requirements implemented in 1987.
- o *Deaths from other (non-motor-vehicle) accidents directly attributable to alcohol should be reduced to five per 100,000 population per year:* Although 1990 data are not available from the Medical Examiner file, it appears that North Carolina met this objective. Data from 1986 through 1989 show an increase in death rates due to alcohol-related unintentional injuries, but North Carolina remains below the national objective.
- o *The cirrhosis mortality rate should be reduced to 12 per 100,000 per year:* Although North Carolina's cirrhosis death rate rose from 1985 through 1989, it dipped in 1990 to remain below the objective for the nation. The U.S. rate has dropped steadily since 1973 to 10.2, below the 1990 rate of 10.8 for North Carolina.

The U.S. also either met or is projected to meet five objectives, although for some objectives there was not reliable baseline data for the United States. For example, although North Carolina has data on abortions performed during the second trimester, the U.S. has no comparable data. Some states do not collect abortion data, therefore United States abortion data are incomplete.

For some objectives, North Carolina has actually lost ground; that is, North Carolina not only failed to meet the objective, but its citizens have been worsening in health status. The following trends are actually headed in the wrong direction:

- o *Fertility rates for women aged 15, aged 16, and aged 17 have all increased since 1988.* In addition, trends show a general rise in fertility rates for girls under age 15.
- o *1990 showed a sharp rise in maternal mortality.* Both whites and nonwhites experienced higher maternal mortality rates.
- o *The primary and secondary syphilis case rate has shown a dramatic increase since 1987.* The U.S. follows the same trend, but at a much lower case rate.